

Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs Minutes

Monday, August 3, 2015
Dorchester Center for the Arts
321 High Street
Dorchester, Maryland

Chair: Lisa A. Savoy

Staff Present: E. Keith Colston, Agnes M. Smith

Commissioners Present: Chair Lisa Savoy, Donna Abbott, Virginia Busby, Bob Gajdys, Robert Killen, Rico Newman, Rebecca Stone, Leanora E. Winters

Commissioners Absent: Vice Chair Ashley Minner

Chair Lisa Savoy called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

Minutes

It was explained that there was some technical difficulties and there are no minutes available for the June Meeting.

Administrative Director's Report

E. Keith Colston

Administrative Director Keith Colston spoke about working with the MEMA. Emergency Management. His time will be with them as well as with the MCIA. Also updated the 194 fun foundations that funds culturally related programs. This information can be used by anyone. In his day to day activities he continues to work on economic opportunities through Steven McAdams. He noted that policy and procedures allow these opportunities. We will keep the website updated.

Advisory Committee Report

Chair Lisa Savoy

The Advisory Committee has not met as of yet.

Educational Committee

Chair Lisa Savoy (Read Report from Vice Chair Ashley Minner)

Chair Lisa Savoy read the report from Vice Chair Ashley Minner which spoke about the next meeting is scheduled to take place on September 3, 2015, 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm at DBM, 45 Calvert Street, Room 163, Annapolis, Maryland, new committee members are being recruited, they will continue to contact the MSDE Social Studies Office on the curriculum project, developing a scholarship listing to be posted on the MCIA website for Native students in Maryland, continuing to work on establishing data proving that funding and programs for Indian students is needed and data will be used to write legislators, a system to apprise Maryland's tribal communities via MCIA of educational offerings throughout the State, such as Native Studies course and thanked numerous persons for the support of the Class of 2015 Graduation Ceremony at the Baltimore American Indian Center. It was noted it was a beautiful event but poorly attended. Will discuss strategies for better attendance at future events.

Other News

UNITY and The Huffington Post are requesting Native youth who would like to share information about their experiences to complete and submit [THIS SURVEY](#). (online) Please spread the word throughout your communities.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/B5RNTCY>

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Chair Ashley Minner has been contacted by a White House representative in reference to Native high school students in the State of Maryland. Will advise as things develop.

Archaeology and Environment Committee Report

Commissioner Virginia Busby, Ph.D.

Commissioner Virginia Busby gave an update on the Maryland State Parks Bald Friar Petroglyphs Exhibit, NAGPRA Training, scholarships and travel grants availability, NAGPRA Native American Consultation Database (NACD) - FYI The Native American Consultation Database has been updated with information from the 2015 Tribal Leaders Directory Spring/Summer Edition, changes made to Federal Recognition Process on June 29, 2015, Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and MHT's tribal consultation process, Pollinator Protection, Conowingo Dam, Revisions to State Wildlife Action Plan, Baltimore and Potomac Tunnel Project SHA, MCIA Support for Gov. Hogan's efforts regarding the Chesapeake Bay and Conowingo Dam, etc.

Economic and Social Welfare Committee

Chair Savoy noted that Commissioner Robert Killen has volunteered to chair this committee. He will have updates at the next meeting.

Health, Mental Health and Budget & Finance Committee

Commissioner Rebecca Johnson-Stone

Commissioner Rebecca Johnson-Stone noted there were two meetings conducted since last MCIA meeting: June meeting conducted with the Maryland Department of Mental Health and Hygiene regarding Native Round Table; June meeting conducted with Kyle Harmon regarding Natives and suicide. Discussion included Native Round Table in October. A follow up meeting is being rescheduled, keynote speaker at the Grand Ronde Reservation (Oregon) Tribal Veterans Summit, Veterans and community healthcare forum hosted in Baltimore, MD in conjunction with the City of Baltimore and corporate sponsors regarding minority health within the Maryland VA healthcare system and continued efforts and outreach to tribal leadership concerning needs and necessities along with continued efforts to contact offices regarding minority health are ongoing and tentative Round Table date is October 24th – more to follow.

Unfinished Business

Chair Savoy gave an update on the Charles County Board of Education. Administrative Director Colston met with them to get a feel of where they were. It is noted that there is no business at this time.

It was noted that an official letter was forwarded to Executive Director Steven McAdams concerning the Watershed Project.

Commissioner Bob Gajdys noted that MCIA did a resolution that approved Governor Larry Hogan's position concerning Section 106. There was a note that there is a chain of command to follow for any correspondence going to the Governor.

New Business

Administrative Director Colston noted that he gave Commissioner Rico Newman the benefits binder. He also noted that the information is available to everyone and will be put on a thumb drive and on a cloud so anyone can have access from any computer. This is updated information on opportunities for funding. He also referenced the 17 million dollars that was spoken about that the State is missing out on by not having a State recognized tribe. The information will be placed on the website.

Commission announcements to the public

Administrative Director Colston informed the Commissioners that Shameka Littles, Chief Finance and Grants Officer, GOCI with regard to fiscal oversight, accepting and spending funds that come into the State of Maryland on behalf of MCIA through GOCI: If the MCIA decides to move forward with amending or revising its by-laws, it is advisable that their documents are vetted for legal sufficiency in accordance with subsequent state laws and expectations of the Commission are clear. This means that if the MCIA wishes to engage in a process to begin to seek funds from other sources, the process must be defined and carried out under applicable state law. When ready guidance can be provided accordingly.

There was a discussion about the by-laws that are seven years old. It was noted that there needs to be clear understanding for commissioners. There are updated by-laws dated July 19, 2012. The Commission can come together and make any changes to the by-laws and it has to be voted on. The by-laws are the foundation for the MCIA.

Gwen Brewer, Ph.D., Science Program Manager, Department of Natural Resources, Natural Heritage Program

Dr. Gwen Brewer gave a presentation on the revision of the State Wildlife Action Plan. They want to get input from the Native communities. She gave an overview about the plan and the opportunities available. She noted that the last plan was in 2005 and needs to be updated every ten years. The plans are comprehensive and required by Congress for every State. The purpose is to protect and restore endangered species in their habitats as well as keep common species common. Want to keep all the wonderful plants and animals in the State of Maryland. They go through and see what species have the greatest need in the State. This plan is for the entire State. The critical part is coordinating and collaborating with stakeholders and conservation partners. They must produce the plans and revisions in order to receive funds from the Federal government called the State Tribal Wildlife Plans. The species of greatest conservation needs: Bobcat, Long Tail Duck and State Butterfly. Looking at October 1, 2015 for submission of plan. She will notify the Commission on upcoming meetings. She also encouraged Commissioners to go to the website and lookup the Wildlife Action Plan.

Administrative Director Colston noted that the GOCI is working with MEMA (Maryland Emergency Management Agency) in quite a few ways. GOCI is the donation and volunteer aspect of what is called ESF (Emergency Support Function). It ranges from 1-17 in which GOCI is 15. They deal with natural disasters or the issues that happened in Baltimore City. On the Eastern Shore they deal with natural disasters. We are in the hurricane season now. The presentation will show you how to prepare beforehand.

Ms. Jessica Nusbaum, Individual Assistance Officer and Community Preparedness Coordinator, External Outreach Preparedness Directorate, MEMA

Ms. Jessica Nusbaum, Maryland Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) noted they are the State counterpart of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Most people know FEMA from Hurricane Katrina. She noted that all disasters start at the local level. If something happens in a jurisdiction it will first go to the local level Emergency Management Agency which all counties have including Ocean City, City of Annapolis and Baltimore City. When the event gets out of hand and they no longer can handle at the local level they reach out to MEMA. MEMA can connect them to State agencies, National Guard if needed and FEMA for funding. FEMA writes the checks. She spoke of the different disasters that has happened in Maryland. Her job is to prepare individuals before disasters. What you need to have on-hand in case of a disasters. The largest State disaster was Hurricane Agnes in 1972. She noted the importance of being prepared. It is key to be prepared. Every household should have an escape route. You should have your house prepared before a hurricane which could include shutters, trees trimmed, cleaning drain gutters, etc. She noted in a disaster only use phone for emergencies so as not to jam up phone lines. During hurricane warnings be listening to the radio or televisions. Stay inside away from windows. Ms. Nusbaum gave an in-depth presentation of what to do in an disaster. She also noted to check your insurance policies to see what you are covered for. This is important because some people think they have flood insurance and don't. Getting flood insurance after a disaster will not cover the disaster you just came through. She spoke of different things that could happen during disaster including power going out, water not drinkable, etc. She spoke about knowing the difference between a winter storm watch and a winter storm warning. A storm watch is a storm is possible for your area and a storm warning means is definitely on its way but just don't know how much accumulation. She noted that everyone should have phone numbers accessible in preparation of emergencies. Ms. Nusbaum noted to have simple supplies like a map, non electric can opener, water, toilet paper, paper towels, cleaner, etc. She even noted to have preparation in case you have to evacuate from work or have evacuation plans for your pet. Have a buddy system in place especially for pets. The presentation is to make sure you are prepared for a disaster.

Administrative Director Colston informed the Commission that as leaders he encourages them to help out in these situations. He noted they have what is called VOAD (Volunteer Organizations Active in a Disaster). That's who the State agencies contact. They can put you in contact with the different organizations. You do not need to be a member of the organizations to get help. He noted to please call if you need assistance in putting some sort of plan together.

Commissioner Bob Gadys noted that on June 29, 2015 the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Indian Affairs on the final federal regulations process for being acknowledged in the federal government. He noted they spoke of the previous system being too slow, expensive, gruesome, in effective, inclusive, less than transparent and unpredictable, He noted these items relate to the State Comar requirements for getting recognition in the State of Maryland. Commissioner Gadys suggested that Commissioners read the new regulations. He suggested MCIA appoint a Commissioner and other personnel to draft and rewrite the present Comar Title 01 Subtitle 6 Chapter 1 consistent with the new Department of the Interior federal regulation.

Commissioner Rico Newman noted that the regulations have not been changed in 20 years.

There was a discussion about this issue. Dorchester County Commissioner Tom Bradshaw noted that the Late Chief Winterhawk was very passionate about this. The State of Virginia is far more advance in this issue.

It was noted that an Adhoc Committee be created to come up with some regulations in relation to the federal regulations. It was noted to have this by December 31, 2015. (I'll include the actual wording shortly)

Adjourned at 9:00 p.m.